

*To you is born
this day a Savior*

LUKE 2:11





FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

500 West Le Claire Road Eldridge, Iowa
Pastor Carrie Lewis La Plante Pastor Heather Geest

Family Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, 2024

2:00 & 4:00 p.m.

Prelude (2:00 pm)

*"The First Nowell"
"O Come, All Ye Faithful"
"Festival on Wexford Carol"*

Resounding Joy

Greeting

Hymn

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the king of angels:

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest: *Refrain*

Prayer

P Lord God, we thank you for making this holy night shine with the true light of your Son. As we celebrate his birth as a human child, fill us with the joy of heaven. For he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Anthem (2:00 pm) "I Heard the Angels Shouting Glory!" People of Praise

Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

Welcoming the Gospel "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain:

Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain*

Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn king. *Refrain*

The Christmas Story: Part 1 Luke 2:1-7

Hymn "Away in a Manger"

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

The Christmas Story: Part 2 Luke 2:8-20

Hymn

"Go Tell It On The Mountain"

(The children come forward as the hymn is sung.)

Refrain

Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. *Refrain*

The shepherds feared and trembled
when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*

Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

Christmas Eve Message

(Following the message, the children return to their seats as we sing.)

Hymn

"I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve"

I am so glad each Christmas Eve,
the night of Jesus' birth!
Then like the sun the star shone forth,
and angels sang on earth.

The little child in Bethlehem,
he was a king indeed!
For he came down from heav'n above
to help a world in need.

He dwells again in heaven's realm,
the Son of God today;
and still he loves his little ones
and hears them when they pray.

I am so glad each Christmas Eve!
His praises then I sing;
he opens now for ev'ry child
the palace of the king.

And so I love each Christmas Eve,
and I love Jesus too;
and that he loves me ev'ry day
I know so well is true.

Prayers of the Church

Sharing of the Peace

Offering

Offering Prayer

The Great Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Thanksgiving at the Table

The Lord's Prayer

C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily
bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the
kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever.
Amen.

Distribution of Communion

Believing in the real presence of Christ, we invite all present to participate in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. All who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ is present in the gifts of bread and wine are welcome at the Lord's table. Those who do not wish to receive communion and children who are not yet receiving communion may come forward for a blessing.

Communion is distributed by continuous distribution. Today we will be using two stations. Please come forward by the center aisle to receive the wafer from the pastor, and then, receive a cup of wine (light colored drink in the outer rings of the tray) or grape juice (darker colored drink in the center of the trays) from the communion assistant. Gluten-free wafers are available in the small gold dish on the paten. You may place your empty cups in the baskets at the ends of the front pews as you return to your seats by the side aisles.

Songs During Distribution

"Your Little Ones, Dear Lord"

Your little ones, dear Lord, are we,
and come your lowly bed to see;
enlighten ev'ry soul and mind,
that we the way to you may find.

With songs we hasten you to greet,
and kiss the ground before your feet.
Oh, blessed hour, oh, sweetest night
that gave you birth, our soul's delight.

Oh, draw us wholly to you, Lord,
and to us all your grace accord;
true faith and love to us impart,
that we may hold you in our heart.

Until at last we too proclaim,
with all your saints, your glorious name;
in paradise our songs renew,
and praise you as the angels do.

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Hark! The herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuell! *Refrain*

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth. *Refrain*

Post-Communion Blessing and Prayer

Candle Lighting

Please stand. The lighted candle is never tilted, but is always held upright when giving light to another. Parents, please assist the children if they are holding a candle.

Hymn of Light "Silent Night, Holy Night!"

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

Christmas Eve Prayer

P Loving God, Help us remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate
and open the door of love all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.
Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings,
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be your children,
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake.

C Amen.

Blessing

P May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph,
the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the
determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ Child. Almighty
God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

The candles are extinguished.

Recessional Hymn "Joy to the World"

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king; let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sin and sorrow grow
nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Dismissal

P Glory to God in the highest!

C Peace to God's people on earth!

P Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

C Thanks be to God.

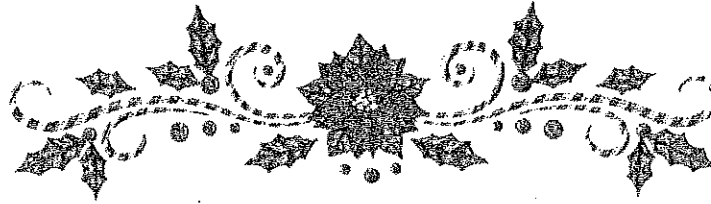


~Thank you to those who share in our worship this evening~

	2:00 pm Worship Service
Ushers	Diane Krebs & Nash Schneckloth
Reader	Kelly Penning
Communion Assistant	Jared Penning & Joy Schneckloth
Counters	Jared & Kelly Penning

	4:00 am Worship Service
Ushers	Bob & Carol Kuehl
Reader	Theresa White
Communion Assistants	Sherri Beyer & Pam Carlson
Counters	Chelsey Dingbaum & Kelly Penning

Choir Director	Susan Becker
Organists	Susan Becker & Teri Wittkowski
Online Streaming Crew	Lucas Golinghorst, Scott LaPlante, & Kevin Zidarich



Christmas Flowers

Thank you to everyone who provided the beautiful poinsettias for this Christmas season.

From:

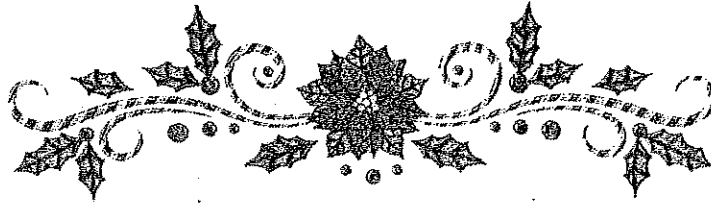
David & Shirley Rose
Joan & Denny Hennigan
Ed & Kathy Stoltz
David & Diane Cole
Kelly Wyatt
Zidarich Family
Carol Roe
Kent & Michelle Wiebel
Paul & Lynn Atkins
Jacob Bekel
Bob & Carol Kuehl
Bryan & Marla Zabel
Scott, Carrie, Abby & Madelyn La Plante

Tonya, Maisie & Melena Knutsen
Jim & Ida Weibel
Meier family
Bryan, Brianne Brooklyn & Kelsey Tallyn
Nancy Germain
Myra Kreiter & Family

Jared & Kelly Penning
Rhonda Webber
Brian & Nina Looney
Sue Sissel
Doug * & Michele Olsen
Myron & Cindy Zabel
Roger & Sherri Beyer
Ron & Mary Arp

In Honor or Memory Of:

Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Stacey Dircks
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Our Fathers
Our Moms & Dads
Great Grandparents
Our Parents
Loved Ones
Dan La Plante, Joanne Tamblingson, and our
grandparents
Leroy & Marilyn Knutsen, and Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Carolyn Moon & Harlan Meier
Loved Ones
Nicholas Germain & My Parents
Jack, Henry & Roma Kreiter &
Victor & Agnes Randolph
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Our anniversary and Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
William Fritsch
Family members and friends gone too soon



Christmas Flowers

From:

John Hintze
Tom & Pam Carlson
Justin & Ashley Huffman
Justin & Ashley Huffman
Myron Scheibe
John & Keri Suiter
Mike & Rita Smith
Linda Johnson
Bob & Theresa White
Darin & Beth Ann Anderson & Family
Mary Moore
Stephanie McNamara
Colton & Becky Johnson
Jeanne Willems
Jeanne Willems
Gary & Joni King
Kristy & Giles Looney
Beverly Schmidt
Cathy Diaz
Carol Marten
Kourtney & Winston Johnson

In Honor or Memory Of:

Loved Ones
Our Families
Sheila Baustian
Grandparents
Carolyn Scheibe
Bud & Janet Nagle
Loved Ones
Dennis Johnson
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Dale Moore
Jana Donaubauer
Cathy Potter
Leroy Willems & Loved Ones
Betty Spies
Our Parents
Bob & Marlene Lage and Pat & Irene Looney
Dennis Schmidt
Husband, Enrique
Jerry
Lucas Johnson

Detail Disoriented

Read Luke 2 closely, and you will notice that many of the details we assume about the Christmas story are noticeably absent. Luke does not tell us about a journey on a donkey, an innkeeper, a stable, or any animals, hay, or straw. The text even leaves unclear the reason the infant Jesus is laid in a manger, which is an unusual second option after finding no room at the inn.

It is very easy to get lost in the details (real or imagined), or at least to get distracted by them. They often become the center of our Christmas pageant preparations and the focus of our nativity scenes. But when we worry too much about sheep, hay, and stables, we can lose sight of the heart of the story: Jesus, the promised one, is born. Jesus is born, and through him, God will scatter the proud, lift up the lowly, fill the hungry with good things, and show mercy from generation to generation (Luke 2:51-55).

For many of us, preparations for Advent and Christmas include many details: Advent calendars, decorations, special foods, gatherings, concerts, additional worship services, gifts, guests. These details of the season can bring us delight and fulfillment. They can also feel like disorienting burdens.

When the details feel like they are too much, let us return to the heart of the story: Jesus is born, not at an ideal time, but at precisely the right time. Jesus is born, even in the middle of our own messy lives and preparations. Jesus is born, even into our imperfect world. When all else is cleared away, all the details swept aside, this is still our good news: Jesus, our wonderful counselor and bringer of peace (Isaiah 9:6), is born.